

## LESSON 8-1: Entrepreneurship

### Entrepreneurship: What and Why?

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*“Being an entrepreneur means having an insatiable thirst for learning, evolving, and creating. There is simply no one end goal.” - Richard Branson*

#### WELCOME & PRAYER

#### KICK OFF QUESTION

- What character traits come to mind when you think of an entrepreneur? Which ones do you view as “good” and which ones as “bad”?

#### PRIMARY SCRIPTURES

“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.” Romans 12:2 (NLT)

##### Discussion Questions:

- Paul is challenging the Romans to think differently if they want to understand God’s will, which is good and pleasing and perfect. How has God changed the way you think about business?

#### BIG PICTURE

The word “entrepreneur” can conjure up many images; the man or woman who has to have control, is unafraid to lose it all, is willing to take crazy risks, unwilling to work for another person, a gambler, a free spirit...and the list goes on and on. The idea of a modern-day entrepreneur has been reduced to a young person who wants to create a world-changing business that can quickly reach \$1 billion or more in market value like the fabled unicorns (Apple, Facebook, Twitter). These images are false. Entrepreneurs can be found in small and large corporations, making a difference no matter where they serve.

#### What is an Entrepreneur?

**Someone who sees an opportunity to create value, is willing to take a risk to capitalize on that opportunity, and refuses to give up no matter what obstacles they encounter.**

Anyone can be entrepreneurial: employees, owners, assistants, and even entire businesses. Being an entrepreneur is about cultivating a thought process that involves pushing the boundaries of discovery, problem-solving and creative thinking.

## Why Do We Need Entrepreneurs?

Entrepreneurs bring new ideas and initiate fresh patterns where momentum is needed or lacking. This momentum brings opportunity for economic growth, community change, and radical generosity. Entrepreneurs test their faith when they take risks while helping others believe that they can chase God’s calling in their own lives too. Entrepreneurship, when properly implemented, attracts others to join in on something that is bigger than themselves. This becomes *business-as-a-mission* when done well, opening the door to meaningful and eternal conversations that will have impact beyond this life.

## EXERCISE

The questions below help begin the process of thinking about your natural entrepreneurial tendencies. These are presented just to get you thinking about this and the following lessons.

Read the questions below and rate your answers on a 1-5 scale (1=strongly agree, 5=strongly disagree). Discuss your responses with the group.

I always worry about what others will think before doing something important.	
I am always thinking of new, creative ways to do something better.	
Those close to me constantly criticize me for being too quick to shoot down an idea.	
I am a lot less effective in stressful situations.	
For me, taking risks is like buying a lottery ticket: it’s a question of chance.	
I always try to learn lessons from my failures.	
I tend to appreciate the growth I am experiencing and lessons I am learning during a challenging season of life.	
After a failure, I am able to quickly pick myself up and start over.	
I have a hard time anticipating events and trends.	
I am not afraid to take on new initiatives.	
I manage my stress well in uncertain situations.	
I enjoy working with others and take pleasure when they succeed.	
I have no problem making quick decisions as it relates to important life events.	

## Discussion Questions

1. What entrepreneurs do you know and how have they impacted your life?
2. Have you ever seen yourself as an entrepreneur? Why or why not?
3. What did you learn about yourself in the exercise above?
4. Do you know of problems within your business or your community that require entrepreneurship? Do you have a role in solving these problems?

## TAKE ACTION

- In subsequent lessons, you will be asked to develop ideas that creates value. Please begin developing a list of ideas. You may want to begin with community issues you identified above.

## CLOSING PRAYER

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- *21 Days to a Big Idea* by Bryan Mattimore (This is an excellent idea generation book)
- *Faith & Co. - Business on Purpose, Group Study Guide (with videos)* by Seattle Pacific University
- *Entrepreneur's Handbook – Everything You Need to Launch and Grow Your New Business* by Harvard Business Review
- *EntreLeadership – 20 Years of Practical Business Wisdom from the Trenches* by Dave Ramsey